

a rotor secured to said shaft, said rotor including a rotor coil for generating a magnetic flux on passage of an electric current therethrough, and a plurality of claw-shaped magnetic poles extending in an axial direction and radially surrounding said rotor coil, said claw-shaped magnetic poles being magnetized into North and South poles by said magnetic flux;

a stator including a stator core provided with a plurality of slots formed so as to extend axially and be spaced circumferentially, and a stator winding mounted to said stator core;

slip rings secured to said shaft;

brushes, the ends of which slide on the slip rings, supplying electric current to said rotor coil through said slip rings from an electric power supply;

a brush holding assembly, said brush holding assembly holding said brushes within a holding portion and provided with a cover capable of being opened to remove said brushes; and

a cap for closing an open portion of said case for removal and insertion of said brushes, said open portion being formed at a position on said case facing said cover, one of said cap and said case including means for obstructing an air passage between said ventilation opening and said open portion to prevent an airflow from passing through said ventilation opening and directly through said open portion.

5. (Amended) The alternator according to Claim 3 wherein said means is a partition wall for making the airflow passing through said cooling plate take a circuitous route toward said brushes.

**Please add the following new claims:**

9. (New) An alternator comprising:

a case;

a shaft passing through said case;

a rotor secured to said shaft, said rotor including a rotor coil for generating a magnetic flux on passage of an electric current therethrough, and a plurality of claw-shaped magnetic poles extending in an axial direction and covering said rotor coil, said claw-shaped magnetic poles being magnetized into North-seeking (N) and South-seeking poles by said magnetic flux;

a stator including a stator core provided with a plurality of slots formed so as to extend axially and be spaced circumferentially, and a stator winding mounted to said stator core;

slip rings secured to said shaft;

brushes the ends of which slide on the slip rings supplying electric current to said rotor coil through said slip rings from an electric power supply;

a brush holding assembly which said shaft passes through, said brush holding assembly holding said brushes within a holding portion and provided with a cover capable of being opened to remove said brushes, said cover covering a connection portion connecting holding assembly terminals of said brush holding assembly and brush terminals; and

a cap for closing an open portion for removal and insertion of said brushes, said open portion being formed at a position on said case facing said cover.